

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of classifying one or more images, said method comprising the steps of:

~~selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of ~~at least one image displayed~~  
each of said images on a graphical user interface;

~~moving~~ creating an association between at least one of said images and at  
least one predetermined metadata item representing a classification of said image, in  
response to the iconic representation ~~to a target position of said image being~~  
positioned within ~~[[an]]~~ a client area ~~defined by~~ of said graphical user interface, ~~according~~  
~~to a classification of said image; and~~

~~determining an association between said at least one image and at least one~~  
~~predetermined metadata item representing said classification, in response to said iconic~~  
~~representation being positioned at said target position~~

generating an iconic representation of said predetermined metadata item, for  
display on said graphical user interface, based on said created association.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of~~[[:]]~~

~~generating an iconic representation of said metadata item; and~~

displaying said metadata representation on said graphical user interface.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising the steps of[[:]]

~~selecting~~ creating an association between at least ~~one~~ a further iconic representation one of at least one further image ~~displayed on said graphical user interface;~~  
~~moving said iconic representation to a position defined by said displayed~~  
~~metadata representation; and~~

~~creating an association between said further image~~ images and said at least one metadata item, in response to the iconic representation of said further image being selected and moved to a position defined by said displayed metadata representation.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the iconic representations of the metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising an updating step of updating ~~wherein~~ said hierarchical structure ~~is updated~~ based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said association between said ~~at least one~~ image and said at least one predetermined metadata item.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of classifying one or more images, said method comprising the steps of:

~~selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of ~~at least one image, displayed~~  
each of said images on a graphical user interface;

~~moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined~~  
~~by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image;~~

creating an association between ~~said~~ at least one ~~image~~ of said images and at  
least one metadata item representing a classification of said image, in response to ~~said~~  
~~iconic representation~~ the iconic representation of said image being positioned ~~at said target~~  
~~position~~ within a client area of said graphical user interface; and

~~generating an iconic representation of said at least one metadata item~~  
~~representing said classification~~

generating an iconic representation of said at least one metadata item, for  
display on said graphical user interface, based on said created association, wherein said  
metadata representation is configured for searching on said image.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, further comprising the  
step of displaying said metadata representation on said graphical user interface.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, further  
comprising the steps of:

~~selecting~~ creating an association between at least ~~one~~ a further iconic  
~~representation~~ one of at least one further image, ~~displayed on said graphical user interface;~~

~~moving said iconic representation to a position defined by said displayed metadata representation; and~~

~~creating an association between said further image images and said at least one metadata item, in response to the iconic representation of said further image being selected and moved to a position defined by said displayed metadata representation.~~

10. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the iconic representations of the metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said hierarchical structure is updated based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said method comprising the steps of:

~~selecting displaying an iconic representation of at least one metadata item displayed on a graphical user interface;~~

~~determining an association between said at least one metadata item and said at least one image in response to selection of the iconic representation of said at least one metadata item; and~~

~~generating an iconic representation of said at least one image based on said association, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.~~

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying said iconic representation of said at least one image on said graphical user interface.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

~~selecting at least one further~~ generating an iconic representation of at least one further metadata item displayed a further one of said images, for display on said graphical user interface[[;]] , in response to said selection of said iconic representation of said at least one metadata item

~~determining an association between said at least one further metadata item and at least one further image; and~~

~~generating an iconic representation of said at least one further image for display on said graphical user interface.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the iconic representations of the at least one metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure of iconic representations of metadata items.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said hierarchical structure is updated based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

17. (Currently Amended) A graphical user interface for representing classification relationships between one or more images and one or more metadata items, said graphical user interface comprising:

at least one portion for displaying an iconic representation of each of said images;

~~selection means for moving at least one iconic representation of~~  
positioning at least one of said images ~~displayed on said graphical user interface, to iconic~~  
representations for at least one of said images within a target position within an client area  
~~defined by~~ of said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image; and

at least ~~one~~ another portion for displaying an iconic representation of a metadata item representing said classification, said iconic representation of said metadata  
data item being generated and displayed in response to said at least one iconic  
representation for said at least one image being positioned at said target position within  
said client area and an association between said at least one image and said metadata item  
representing said classification being created.

18. (Currently Amended) A graphical user interface according to claim 17, further comprising:

a further selection means for selecting said iconic representation of said at least one metadata item displayed on ~~[[a]]~~ said graphical user interface; and

at least one still further portion for displaying at least said iconic representation of said at least one image in response to said selection of said iconic representation of said at least one metadata item.

19. (Original) A graphical user interface according to claim 18, wherein said further portion displays any further iconic representations of said one or more images, said further iconic representations being generated depending on determined associations between said one or more images and any other metadata items represented in said at least one portion.

20. (Original) A graphical user interface according to claim 18, wherein the iconic representations of the metadata items are arranged according to a hierarchical structure.

21. (Original) A graphical user interface according to claim 20, wherein said hierarchical structure is updated based on metadata items associated with at least one of said images.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for classifying one or more images, said apparatus comprising:

~~selection~~ display means for ~~selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of ~~at least one image displayed~~ each of said images on a graphical user interface ~~and moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image, and;~~

~~determining~~ creating means for ~~determining~~ creating an association between ~~said at least one image~~ of said images and at least one predetermined metadata item representing ~~said a classification of said image~~, in response to ~~said the~~ iconic representation

of said image being positioned at said target position within a client area of said graphical user interface; and

generating means for generating an iconic representation of said predetermined metadata item, for display on said graphical user interface, based on said created association.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for classifying one or more images, said apparatus comprising:

~~selection~~ display means for ~~selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of ~~at least one image, displayed each of said images~~ on a graphical user interface ~~and moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image;~~

~~creation~~ means for creating an association between ~~said at least one image of said images~~ and at least one metadata item representing a classification of said image, in response to ~~said iconic representation~~ the iconic representation of said image being positioned ~~at said target position; and~~ within a client area of said graphical user interface;

~~generation~~ means for generating an iconic representation of said at least one metadata item representing said classification, for display on said graphical user interface, wherein said metadata representation is configured for searching on said image.



24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said apparatus comprising:

~~selection~~ display means for ~~selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of at least one metadata item ~~displayed~~ on a graphical user interface;

determining means for determining an association between said at least one metadata item and said at least one image in response to selection of the iconic representation of said at least one metadata item; and

generation means for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image based on said association, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for classifying one or more images, said program comprising:

code for ~~selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of ~~at least one image~~ displayed each of said images on a graphical user interface;

code for ~~moving said~~ creating an association between at least one of said images and at least one predetermined metadata item representing a classification of said image, in response to the iconic representation to a target position of said image being positioned within [[an]] a client area defined [[by]] of said graphical user interface; ~~according to a classification of said image~~; and

~~code for determining an association between said at least one image and at least one predetermined metadata item representing said classification, in response to said iconic representation being positioned at said target position~~

code for generating an iconic representation of said predetermined metadata item, for display on said graphical user interface, based on said created association.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for classifying one or more images, said program comprising:

~~code for selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of ~~at least one image;~~  
~~displayed each of said images~~ on a graphical user interface;

~~code for moving said iconic representation to a target position within an area defined by said graphical user interface, according to a classification of said image;~~

code for creating an association between ~~said at least one image of said images~~ and at least one metadata item representing a classification of said image, in response to ~~said iconic representation~~ the iconic representation of said image being positioned at ~~said target position~~ within a client area of said graphical user interface; and

code for generating an iconic representation of said at least one metadata item representing for display on said graphical user interface, based on said classification created association, wherein said metadata representation is configured for searching on said image.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said program comprising:

code for ~~selecting~~ displaying an iconic representation of at least one metadata item ~~displayed~~ on a graphical user interface;

code for determining an association between said at least one metadata item and said at least one image in response to selection of the iconic representation of said at least one metadata item; and

code for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image based on said association, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said method comprising the steps of:

~~selecting~~ displaying a plurality of iconic representations of metadata items ~~displayed~~ on a graphical user interface, said iconic representations of metadata items being arranged according to a hierarchical structure;

generating a query based on ~~said~~ selection of said plurality of iconic representations;

determining at least one association between one or more metadata items represented by the selected iconic representations and said at least one image based on said query; and

generating an iconic representation of said at least one image based on said association, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said apparatus comprising:

~~selection~~ display means for ~~selecting~~ displaying a plurality of iconic representations of metadata items ~~displayed~~ on a graphical user interface, said iconic representations of metadata items being arranged according to a hierarchical structure;

query generation means for generating a query based on ~~said~~ selection of said plurality of iconic representations;

determining means for determining at least one association between one or more metadata items represented by the selected iconic representations and said at least one image based on said query; and

iconic generation means for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image based on said association, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for searching for at least one image from a plurality of images, said program comprising:

code for ~~selecting~~ displaying a plurality of iconic representations of metadata items ~~displayed~~ on a graphical user interface, said iconic representations being arranged according to a hierarchical structure;

code for generating a query based on ~~said~~ selection of said plurality of iconic representations;

code for determining at least one association between one or more metadata items represented by the selected iconic representations and said at least one image based on said query; and

code for generating an iconic representation of said at least one image based on said association, said iconic representation of said at least one image being adapted for display on said graphical user interface.

31. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein each said metadata item comprises at least one of a field of said iconic representation of said metadata item, a field of a label of said metadata item, a field of a reference to said associated image and a field of a type of said metadata item.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein a value of said field is editable by a user.

33. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein a value of at least one said field is obtained from said associated image.

34. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said associated image is a region of a larger image.

35. (New) A method according to claim 5, wherein said updating step comprises the step of designating one said metadata item as a child item of a parent metadata item in response to an iconic representation of said one metadata item being dropped on the iconic representation of said parent metadata item.

36. (New) A method according to claim 35, further comprising the step of associating with said parent metadata item at least one image associated with said child metadata item.

37. (New) A method according to claim 5, wherein said updating step comprises the step of creating a new metadata item in response to the selection of plural iconic representations of metadata items and the positioning of said selected iconic representations at an empty point within said client area, and designating said selected metadata items as child metadata items of said new metadata item.

38. (New) A method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of associating with said new metadata item at least one image associated with one of said child metadata items.

39. (New) A method according to claim 5, wherein said updating step comprises the steps of :

creating a new metadata item in response to the iconic representation of said associated image being dropped on the iconic representation of a second metadata item, wherein said new metadata item is a copy of said predetermined metadata item; and

designating said new metadata item as a child metadata item of said second metadata item.

40. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein said hierarchical structure of iconic representations of metadata items is displayed as a tree structure with expand icons indicating whether a parent iconic representation is open and displaying child iconic representations.